X-MEN 3

BUNN
BROCCARDO
ABURTOV

MARVEL

CIVIL WAR II

X-MEN

WHEN A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES MANIFESTS THE ABILITY TO PROFILE THE FUTURE, THE SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY IS SPLIT AS TO WHETHER HIS POWER IS AN ASSET OR A DANGER.

STORM AND HER TEAM OF X-MEN HAVE SIDED WITH CAPTAIN MARVEL AND THE PREDICTIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVE, WHILE MAGNETO FEARS ULYSSES TIPS THE SCALE IN THE ONGOING COLD WAR BETWEEN MUTANTS AND INHUMANS. NIGHTCRAWLER HAS HIS OWN RESERVATIONS ABOUT PREDICTIVE JUSTICE AND HAS JOINED MAGNETO'S TEAM IN THE SAVAGE LAND.

WHEN MAGNETO MAKES THE FIRST MOVE, SENDING FANTOMEX INTO THE INHUMAN CAPITAL, NEW ATTILAN, TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE ON ULYSSES, PSYLOCKE RUSHES TO ALERT STORM'S TEAM IN HOPES OF PREVENTING WAR. FANTOMEX IS SUCCESSFULLY APPREHENDED, BUT THE RUN-IN IS NOT WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES...

WRITER
CULLEN BUNN

ARTIST
ANDREA BROCCARDO

COLORIST
JESUS ABURTOV

LETTERER
VC'S JOE SABINO

COVER ARTIST
DAVID YARDIN

VARIANT COVER ARTIST
MIKE MAYHEW

TITLE PAGE DESIGN
ANTHONY GAMBINO

ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS ROBINSON

EDITOR
DANIEL KETCHUM

X-MEN GROUP EDITOR
MARK PANICCIA

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
JOE QUESADA

EDITOR IN CHIEF
AXEL ALONSO

PUBLISHER
DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
ALAN FINE

X-MEN CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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THE FUTURE.
MOVE, YOU HOUNDS!
MOVE!
RUN THEM DOWN!
SNIFF OUT THOSE WAYWARD MUTANTS...
...SO AHAB THE HOUND-MASTER CAN PUT THEM IN THEIR GRAVES!
WHAT IS IT, GIRL?
CAUGHT A SCENT, HAVE YOU?
ALL THAT FEAR...THAT DESPERATION... DANCING THROUGH THAT BRAIN OF YOURS...
...RINGING LIKE A DIRGE THROUGH YOUR HEAD...

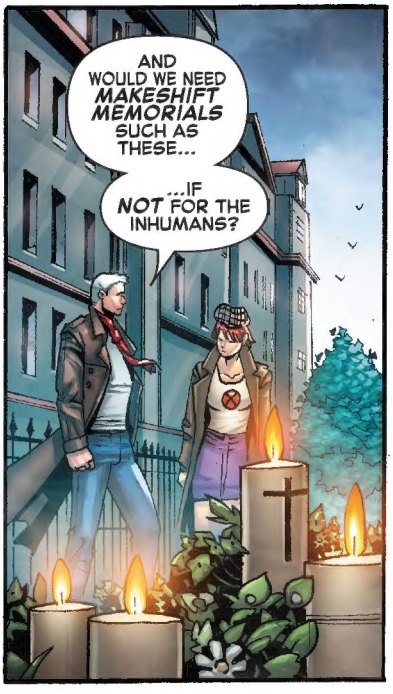
"...THE SWEET DEATH KNELL OF MUTANTKIND!"
RACHEL GREY.
LONDON, ENGLAND. NOW.
I WONDER WHO THEY LOST.
THE WOMAN LOST A HUSBAND, THE GIRL, A FATHER.
HE HAD ONLY DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS A MUTANT A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO.
HE COULD TURN ELECTRICITY INTO MUSIC.
HE THOUGHT THAT ATTENDING A RALLY WOULD HELP HIM MEET OTHERS LIKE HIMSELF.
THEY CAME WITH HIM. THEY WANTED TO SUPPORT HIM.
WHEN THE TERRIGEN CLOUD PASSED THROUGH, THEY WERE UNAFFECTED.
HE DIED JUST THREE DAYS LATER.
TWO DOZEN OTHERS SHARED HIS FATE.

HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH MY FATHER...WITH CYCLOPS...
...I'VE DONE EVERYTHING I CAN TO STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM THE X-MEN.
ESPECIALLY X-MEN OF THE TERRORIST VARIETY.
MAGNETO.
AND YET YOU HAVEN'T TURNED YOUR BACK ON THE MUTANT RACE.
YOU MOURN OUR LOSSES.
I RESPECT THAT.
FOR THAT REASON, I'VE GIVEN YOU YOUR SPACE...UNTIL NOW.
SAD--IS IT NOT?--THAT OTHERS DO NOT FEEL OUR PAIN IN THE SAME WAY.
...WOULD'VE DIED SOON ENOUGH ANYWAY...
...LOST CAUSE...
...PUTTING THEM OUT OF THEIR MISERY...
...A COUPLE OF PEOPLE TURNED INTO INHUMANS HERE...
...CLOUD CHANGED THEM...

THEIR THOUGHTS...
...THEY'RE BARELY CONCERNED WITH THE MUTANTS WHO DIED BECAUSE OF THE T-MISTS.
THEY'RE MORE CURIOUS ABOUT THE NEW INHUMANS WHO WERE BORN HERE.
AH.
YES, I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED AS MUCH.
THE CLOUD GIVES INHUMANS THEIR POWERS...
...AND POISONS MUTANTS.
FOR MOST PEOPLE, IT IS EASIER TO REVEL IN LIFE THAN IT IS TO LAMENT DEATH.
WHY ARE YOU HERE, MAGNETO?
LAST I HEARD, YOU WERE ON SOME GRAND CRUSADE AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF OUR PEOPLE.
AND SO I AM.
A NEW INHUMAN HAS EMERGED, ONE WITH THE ABILITY TO FORETELL THE FUTURE.
THIS YOUNG MAN--ULYSSES--IS BEING USED TO PREDICT AND PREVENT CATASTROPHE.
BUT I WORRY HIS GIFTS WILL ALSO BE USED AGAINST MUTANTS.
OR AT LEAST, MUTANTS WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM HIS PREDICTIONS.
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S FAIR.
I DON'T THINK WE KNOW ENOUGH TO--

WE KNOW THE INHUMANS ARE SEQUESTERING THIS BOY.
WE KNOW THEY SERVE UP HIS PROPHECIES AS THEY SEE FIT.
AND WE KNOW THEY ARE MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN PROPAGATING THEIR SPECIES THAN SAVING OURS.

TELL ME... IN THE WORLD YOU COME FROM...
...IN YOUR FUTURE...
...DO YOU RECALL AN INHUMAN LIFTING A FINGER TO HELP OUR PEOPLE?


AND WOULD WE NEED MAKESHIFT MEMORIALS SUCH AS THESE...
...IF NOT FOR THE INHUMANS?

THAT IS WHY I HAVE COME TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP, MS. GREY.
SO THAT WE CAN NOT ONLY PROTECT THE FUTURE...

...BUT SO WE CAN PROTECT THE FUTURE FOR MUTANTKIND.

NEW YORK CITY.
STORM.
QUEEN MEDUSA.
LOCKJAW.
HELLO, ORORO.
MEDUSA.
WE'VE BOTH MADE SUITABLY DRAMATIC ENTRANCES.
NOW THAT THAT'S OUT OF THE WAY, LET'S *TALK*...WOMAN TO WOMAN.

GO ON, BOY.
I'LL WHISTLE WHEN I NEED YOU.
WHRUF!
THANK YOU FOR MEETING WITH ME...
I AM UNSURE THAT I HAD A CHOICE.
AT LEAST, I HAD NO OTHER OPTION IF I WANTED ANSWERS.
I NEED TO KNOW WHY THERE ARE MUTANTS PROWLING AROUND NEW ATTILAN WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE OR PERMISSION.
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? IF MY PEOPLE FOUND OUT--
YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY. I HOPE, THOUGH, THAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY REASONS.
I DID WHAT I DID...I SENT GAMBIT INTO YOUR CITY... TO PROTECT YOU.
I ALWAYS INTENDED TO TELL YOU, BUT THERE WAS SO LITTLE TIME AND YOU'VE BEEN A BIT PREOCCUPIED.
I DON'T LIKE BEING KEPT IN THE DARK, ORORO. IT'S INSULTING.
WHATEVER IS HAPPENING BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE, I THOUGHT WE--YOU AND I--WERE ON BETTER TERMS THAN THAT.
IF YOU HAD WARNED ME MAGNETO WAS GOING TO MAKE SOME SORT OF PLAY FOR ULYSSES, PREPARATIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE TO CRUSH SUCH AN ACTION.
BUT SENDING ONE OF MY OWN PEOPLE--SECRETLY--WAS AN EFFORT TO SAFEGUARD MUTANTS AS WELL.
I DIDN'T KNOW IF MAGNETO WOULD TRY ANYTHING.
IF I HAD WARNED YOU IN ADVANCE... WHILE YOU'RE ALREADY ON THE DEFENSIVE THANKS TO EVERYTHING ELSE THAT IS GOING ON...IT MIGHT HAVE SPARKED AN INCIDENT.

NOW, THOUGH, I HAVE PROOF.
MAGNETO SENT ONE OF HIS OPERATIVES--FANTOMEX--INTO NEW ATTILAN. WE DON'T KNOW WHY JUST YET, BUT WE CAN ASSUME IT WAS TO ABDUCT OR ELIMINATE ULYSSES.
LUCKILY, WE WERE THERE TO STOP HIM. THE X-MEN DEALT WITH HIM.
AND THAT'S WHAT I'M ASKING YOU TO LET US DO HERE. LET US HANDLE MAGNETO.
MAGNETO HATES US, STORM.
AND HIS HATRED IS SO DEEP THAT HE CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT WE INHUMANS FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT HIM AND EVERY OTHER MUTANT.
I'M NOT SURE I CAN SIMPLY LOOK THE OTHER WAY.
PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE SHARED MY CONCERNS EARLIER.
BUT THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO FURTHER DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS OF ONE MAN--
ONE MAN WHO SHOULD HAVE MET MUTANT JUSTICE LONG AGO. ONE MAN WHO WILL MEET INHUMAN JUSTICE NOW.
YOU'VE LET HIM RUN WILD TOO LONG.
I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER IF YOU SYMPATHIZE WITH MAGNETO.
I SYMPATHIZE WITH ALL MUTANTS.
MY PEOPLE--ALL OF THEM--FACE EXTINCTION.
I WILL NOT HAVE--
YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO TELL A QUEEN WHAT YOU WILL OR WILL NOT HAVE.

I RESPECT YOU, MEDUSA, AND YOUR POSITION, BUT DO NOT FORGET THAT I, TOO, HAVE BEEN A QUEEN.
WE BOTH KNOW THE BURDEN OF RULE.
SHALOM
SURELY THAT WAS NOT A WARNING OF SOME KIND.
IT WAS JUST...
...THE WEATHER.
WE'RE NOT HANDLING THIS VERY WELL, ARE WE?
WE'RE BOTH COMING IN A LITTLE HOT.
PLEASE, MEDUSA, WE ARE NOT ENEMIES.
LET ME HELP YOU.
LET ME FIND OUT WHAT IT IS MAGNETO WANTS.
AT THIS POINT, ALL HE'S DONE IS SEND A SPY.
OF COURSE, I MUST TAKE SOME ACTION, IF ONLY TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF NEW ATTILAN.
AS YOU SAID, MAGNETO SENT A SPY TO ATTILAN.
THE LEAST I CAN DO...
VERY WELL, STORM.
I'LL WAIT TO HEAR FROM YOU BEFORE MAKING ANY DRASTIC RESPONSE.
IF, HOWEVER, MAGNETO DOES ANYTHING ELSE, I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESPOND IN KIND.

"...IS RETURN THE FAVOR."
THE SAVAGE LAND. WAR ROOM X.
WOZ.

...I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY STORM TOOK THE ACTIONS SHE DID...
...I SEE HOW SHE BELIEVES BUILDING BRIDGES WITH THE INHUMANS WILL HELP OUR KIND.
BUT SHE IS MISTAKEN.
THE BRIDGES SHE IS BUILDING WILL COLLAPSE UNDERFOOT.
OUR PEOPLE WILL DROWN IN AN OCEAN OF GOOD INTENTIONS.
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEE ONLY ONE VIABLE OPTION.
WE MUST MAKE SURE THIS BOY--ULYSSES--IS SECURED.
I HATE THAT I HAVE TO ASK THIS, MAGNETO.
BUT "SECURED" DOESN'T MEAN "DEAD," DOES IT?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
IF YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY, GREY, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SIGNED ON AS A PINCH HITTER.
MONET.
I KNOW YOUR GRIEF HAS TURNED INTO A HEAVY CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER, MONET.
BUT DON'T THINK I'LL LET YOU MOUTH OFF LIKE THAT TO ME.
RACHEL IS RIGHT.
I WILL NOT CONDONE KILLING THIS BOY, WHETHER OR NOT HE IS A THREAT.
NIGHTCRAWLER.
SNF
HEY, THIS IS ALL REAL FUN AND ALL, BUT--
SABRETOOTH.

"--WE GOT A CHICKEN IN THE FOXHOUSE."
NO, YOU DON'T.
SORRY, FRIEND, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU SLIP AWAY JUST YET.
LOOKS LIKE THE INHUMANS ARE USING YOUR PLAYBOOK, MAGNETO.
HA.
"A SPY FOR A SPY."
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT OUR TIMELINE IS CHANGING.
ACTIONS SUCH AS THIS TEND TO ESCALATE QUICKLY.
IN THIS CASE...

"...I PREFER THE OFFENSIVE APPROACH OVER THE DEFENSIVE."
WHAT A LOVELY LITTLE BUNGALOW YOU'VE BROUGHT ME TO.
NEW YORK CITY.
AND COMPLETE WITH ROPES TO MAKE SURE I DON'T SLIP AWAY.
IS THIS WHERE YOU BRING ALL YOUR DATES?
ONLY THE CHEAP ONES, MON AMI.
FANTOMEX.
GAMBIT.
STORM MUST REALLY BE HURTING FOR CASH.
PUTTING ME HERE...IT'S JUST NOT SMART.
IN LIMBO MAYBE... THE DANGER ROOM...
...BUT NOT SOME FLEABAG TENEMENT THAT STINKS OF DEAD PIGEONS AND MILDEW.
I CHOSE THIS SPOT. I DIDN'T THINK YOU DESERVED MUCH BETTER.
YOUR FRIENDS--IF YOU HAVE ANY--DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE.
I DOUBT YOU'RE GOING ANYWHERE.
WE'LL SEE, WON'T WE?
"WE'LL JUST SEE."

YOU WON'T BE LONELY, THOUGH.
I KNOW SOME FOLKS WHO'D LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.
MAGIK.
PSYLOCKE.
OLD MAN LOGAN.
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER HIM, GAMBIT.
WHUPPING THIS OL' FELLA'S REAR?
IT WAS MY PLEASURE, BELLE.
LET'S MAKE THIS QUICK.
I'D RATHER DEAL WITH LIMBO DEMONS THAN THE ROACHES THAT PROBABLY CRAWL AROUND IN THIS PLACE.
FUNNY.
I WAS JUST SAYING THE SAME THING.
I'M ASSUMING YOU'RE HERE TO WHISK ME AWAY TO BETTER ACCOMMODATIONS.

I'M AFRAID NOT, JEAN-PHILLIPE.
LET ME GUESS, ELIZABETH.
YOU'RE HERE TO TEAR MY SECRETS FROM MY MIND.
OH, I BET YOU WOULD JUST *LOVE* THAT.
BUT I'M UNWILLING TO GIVE YOU ANY *MORE* PLEASURE, DEAR.
THERE'S NO NEED TO *INVADE* MY MIND.
I'LL *VOLUNTEER EVERYTHING* YOU WANT TO KNOW.
I WAS TASKED-- BY MAGNETO--TO SCOPE OUT NEW ATTILAN... TO GET A FEEL FOR WHAT THEY MIGHT BE DOING WITH THIS PRECOG OF THEIRS.
NOTHING MORE.
I WAS UNDER STRICT ORDERS-- *DO NOT ENGAGE.*
AND I DEFINITELY HAD NO INTENTION OF KILLING HIM, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT.
SOME OF US HAVE *CHANGED*, DEAR.
I THINK...
...MAYBE HE'S TELLING THE *TRUTH*...
...INSOMUCH AS HE IS *CAPABLE* OF TELLING THE TRUTH.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, ELIZABETH? HAVE WE MISJUDGED--
STORM! OUTSIDE!
EVERYBODY DOWN!

"WE'VE BEEN SET UP!"
SHUHPOW
WHERE'D HE GO?
SNIKT
EVERYONE IS ALL RIGHT, JA?
ARCHANGEL WAS WORRIED THAT YOU WOULDN'T SEE HIM COMING, THAT YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO BRACE YOURSELVES.
I TOLD HIM TO HAVE FAITH IN YOUR ABILITIES.
SNIKT
IT'S NICE TO SEE THAT I WAS RIGHT!
SNIKT

THERE THEY ARE!
ON THE STREET!
ELF DIDN'T TELEPORT FAR!
AND THEY'RE NOT ALONE!
THEY WANT A FIGHT?
THEY'VE GOT ONE!
RIGHT HERE, OLD MAN!
I AIN'T GONNA KILL YOU, BUT THE THING I ALWAYS LIKED ABOUT TUSSLING WITH YOU...
...YOUR *HEALING FACTOR* MEANS I CAN HURT YOU REAL BAD AND YOU'LL STILL GET BACK UP!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, KURT?
HOW CAN YOU SIDE WITH MAGNETO AGAINST THE INHUMANS?
I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT QUITE AS BLACK-AND-WHITE AS THAT, ELIZABETH.
I'M ALL FOR PEACE BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE, BUT I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER HAVE THAT WITH ULYSSES IN THE INHUMANS' POSSESSION.
HOW'D YOU FIND US, PRINCESS PERFECTO?
HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE WE WERE HOLDING FANTOMEX?
THE GUY HAS A LIVING SPACESHIP FOLLOWING HIM AROUND!
AND-- SURPRISE, SURPRISE--THE SHIP HAS A RADIO!
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE CAST SOME SPELL TO PREVENT SUCH A THING, DEVIL-GIRL!
I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOU, ORORO.
YOU HAVE A STRANGE WAY OF SHOWING IT, WARREN.
I BELIEVE IN MAGNETO'S MISSION.
BUT I DO NOT WANT TO HURT MY FRIENDS TO ACHIEVE IT.
UNLESS I MUST.
ALL RIGHT, MON FRÈRE.
TIME FOR ROUND TWO--

REMY--
--STOP THIS, PLEASE.
WE DON'T NEED TO FIGHT.
ROGUE?
YOU CAN'T BE A PART OF MAGNETO'S PLAN.
YOU CAN'T SUPPORT WHAT HE'S--
I GET THE FEELING, REMY...
...THAT YOU'D FALL FOR THE "ROGUE'S HERE TO RECONCILE" TRICK OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
IT REALLY IS A WEAKNESS...
...A LOT LIKE A GLASS JAW.
CHOK
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE, STORM!
THESE GUYS... THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT FANTOMEX!
THIS ISN'T SOME SORT OF RESCUE MISSION!

"IT'S A DISTRACTION!"
NEW ATTILAN.
TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT:

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